

Frequently Asked Questions Updated August 2018

A Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Prescriber Report is a quarterly snapshot of a practitioner's prescribing practices of Sch. II-V medications and Gabapentin over a six month period. In addition to the Prescriber Report Metrics Explained document, here are some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to help you make the most of the information that is available.

What is a “Prescriber Report”?

The Department of Public Health (Department) is required by [statute](#) to “determine the mean and median quantity and volume of prescriptions for opiates contained in Schedules II and III” in comparison to other prescribers within their specialty. The first report, referred to as a “Provider Trend Notification,” was sent via encrypted email to each prescriber on March 1, 2017 and covered the 2016 calendar year. Based on feedback from stakeholders, we have expanded the report in an effort to provide more regular and more useful information to practitioners.

What are some of the limitations of the Prescriber Report?

1. The Report is not able to account for variations in clinical hours or patient volume. Some practitioners may see many more patients during the reporting period than others. The characteristics of your practice should be taken into consideration when viewing comparisons with prescribers within your specialty and like prescribers within your specialty (e.g., NPs, PAs, or MDs).
2. Certain specialties can have a small number of practitioners and, therefore, an outlier can significantly influence the number of patients, prescriptions, and the averages in several of the data fields included in the Report.
3. Comparisons exclude practitioners within your specialty that have not issued a prescription for at least one Schedule II or III opioid during the six month reporting period. Therefore, in certain specialties you are being compared to the subset of practitioners who have prescribed opioids during the reporting window rather than to all practitioners within that specialty.

Who will receive a Prescriber Report?

An individual prescriber who has prescribed at least one Schedule II and III opioid in the six month period covered by the report will receive a Prescriber Report.

How will I receive the Report?

The Report will be posted to your MassPAT account as a downloadable PDF. Navigate to the Prescriber Report page from the Menu tab. In addition, you will be notified by email that your report has been posted. Please check to see if the email address you have listed in your MassPAT profile is correct.

How often will I receive the Report?

You will be receiving the report on a **quarterly basis, approximately 45-60 days after the close of each quarter**. Each report will look back six months. For example, the 3rd quarter report will look back at the six month period April 1-September 30.

Is the Prescriber Report confidential?

Yes, the Prescriber Report is confidential ([MGL Ch. 94C, Sec. 24B](#)). It is intended to provide you, the practitioner, with information to support your efforts to deliver quality care to your patients.

What type of information is included on the Prescriber Report?

A metrics explanation document entitled, “Prescriber Report Metrics Explained” is available in MassPAT on the Prescriber Report page. This document describes the metrics in each field.

Are prescriptions for Suboxone included or excluded from the data in this Report?

Beginning in the Report issued on August 28, 2018, Suboxone and all Buprenorphine products are now included in the Report. These medications were previously excluded because of the high Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME) conversion factor. These medications are now included in opioid prescribing measures without an assigned MME conversion factor per CDC recommendations.

How did you determine my specialty?

Specialty information was obtained from the Massachusetts Prescription Awareness Tool (MassPAT). As part of registration in MassPAT, providers self-reported their role (e.g., dentist, physician, or pharmacist) and specialty. Please check your My Profile page in MassPAT to ensure your selected specialty is correct.

What if I have multiple Healthcare Specialties selected?

The Prescriber Report will compare your prescribing activity against other prescribers who share the same primary Healthcare Specialty. On the My Profile page, your primary Healthcare Specialty is designated by a crown icon in the upper left.

How do I change my Healthcare Specialty if it appears to be incorrect?

Within the MassPAT site, click Menu => User Profile => My Profile. You will find the option to change your Healthcare Specialty on this page.

How can I view a list of my prescriptions that were included in my Prescriber Report?

Within the MassPAT site, click RxSearch, then click MyRx. Enter the date range July 1st 2017 to December 31st 2017, and select the DEA number associated with your Prescriber Report. This will allow you to see a full list of prescriptions that were included within the Prescriber Report metrics. Note that the prescriptions in your “MyRx” report includes all Schedule II-V controlled medications and Gabapentin, which is a Schedule VI medication. Some of these drug categories are not part of the prescriber report.

I am not being credited for searches I know I have conducted. Why is the reported number of my searches so low?

One common user error is to review your patient’s prescription history using the “Requests History” tab or by clicking the patient’s name from your dashboard without hitting the **REFRESH** button. If you do not hit **REFRESH** the prescription data will be unchanged from the last time you viewed this report (i.e., you will not be viewing the most current prescription history) and you will not be credited with a new search.

RxSearch > Requests History



Massachusetts
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Support: 1-866-Appriss

Advanced Options ▾ REQUESTOR NAME Yes PATIENT NAME Yes **Search**

Requests History

Select a patient to review details about the request.



Patient First Name	Patient Last Name	Requestor	Requested For	Request Type	Status	Date Requested
Edward	Maguire	You		AWARxE	Complete	01/09/2018 9:29 PM

Edward Maguire

View

Refresh

DOB: 03/03/1970

Location:

Other States:

Reason:

Prescription Fill Dates: January 09, 2017 until January 09, 2018

I have delegates conducting searches of all my patients. Why are these searches not credited in my delegate search count?

Delegates may conduct searches on behalf of multiple prescribers in a practice or facility. However, the terms and conditions state that the delegate MUST choose from the drop down list the specific prescriber on whose behalf he/she is conducting a search. If a delegate chooses one prescriber for all patient searches conducted that day, that one prescriber will be given credit for utilizing MassPAT. To ensure that you receive credit for patient searches, please instruct your delegate to choose you as the prescriber when conducting searches on your patients.

What if I believe that there is an error on my MyRx prescription history?

If you believe that one or more of these prescriptions are incorrect, you may contact the dispensing pharmacy for additional details about the prescription in question. If you believe that there may be fraudulent activity associated with your DEA, please contact the Prescription Monitoring Program at mapmp.dph@state.ma.us or 617-753-7310.

If I have questions who should I contact?

If you have any questions regarding the Notification, please contact the Prescription Monitoring Program at mapmp.dph@state.ma.us or 617-753-7310.